

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070937 TOSEC 030137

EXDIS - FOR S/S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, UK, FR

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR THE SECRETARY'S BONN, LON-
DON, AND PARIS BRIEFING PAPERS.

1. EUROCOMMUNISM -- THE EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN PRESS HAVE
IN THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS BEGUN TO SPECULATE ABOUT A NEW
USG ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PARTICIPATION OF THE WESTERN EURO-
PEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES IN POWER. THESE REPORTS HAVE CITED
TWO MEETINGS -- YOURS WITH FRENCH SOCIALISTS ROCARD AND COT
IN EARLY JANUARY, AND THAT BETWEEN PARIS EMBASSY OFFICERS
AND FRENCH COMMUNIST POLITBURO MEMBER KANAPA ON FEBRUARY 10
AS EVIDENCE OF THE NEW US POLICY. THE PRESS HAS ALSO
POINTED TO THE US DECISION TO ISSUE VISAS TO THE COMMUNIST
MAYOR OF FLORENCE AND TO ITALIAN AND FRENCH COMMUNIST
PARLIAMENTARIANS VISITING THE UNITED STATES AS PART OF A
WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION AS EVIDENCE OF A SHIFT IN
US ATTITUDES.

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2. IN FACT THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY ROCARD AND PARTI-
CULARLY COT ON THEIR VISIT TO THE US HAVE BEEN FAIRLY
RESPONSIBLE. COT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE US REMAINS GRAVELY
CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF COMMUNIST ENTRY, BUT WENT
ON TO STATE THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION REGARDS THIS AS A
DOMESTIC ISSUE AND WOULD NOT INTERFERE. THE LEAKS WHICH

HAVE EMERGED FROM THE KANAPA MEETING HAVE BEEN LESS RESPONSIBLE, LEAVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US HAD SOUGHT THE INTERVIEW TO CONVEY OUR NEW POLICY. (IN FACT THE MEETING, WITH WORKING LEVEL EMBASSY OFFICERS, WAS HELD AT KANAPA'S INITIATIVE.) IN ANY CASE, THE PRESS IN FRANCE AND ELSEWHERE HAVE CARRIED NUMEROUS STORIES ASSERTING THAT ASSURANCES OF US NON-INTERFERENCE WERE CONVEYED TO BOTH THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS, AND THAT THIS REFLECTS A LESSENERED CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AT THE PROSPECT OF THE COMMUNISTS COMING TO POWER IN FRANCE AND ITALY.

2. GISCARD'S AIDES HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE IS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE REPORTS, WONDERS WHY THE USG HAS NOT PUBLICLY DENIED THEM, AND INTENDS TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH YOU. WE HAVE HAD LOWER LEVEL INDICATIONS OF CONCERN FROM LONDON, WHICH ARE PROBABLY SHARED TO SOME EXTENT IN BONN AS WELL.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

-- THE PROSPECT OF COMMUNIST ENTRY INTO WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS IS CAUSE FOR SERIOUS CONCERN. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD AT THE VERY LEAST MAKE WESTERN COOPERATION ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND MILITARY ISSUES, UPON WHICH OUR COMMON SECURITY AND PROSPERITY REST, MORE DIFFICULT. LONG-RANGE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE HEALTH OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IS ALSO TROUBLING.

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-- WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PROBLEM MUST BE CONFRONTED PRIMARILY BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. OUTSPOKEN US WARNINGS WOULD, WE FEEL, BE WIDELY VIEWED AND RESENTED AS EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN THEIR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, AND SO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

-- NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR INDIFFERENT TO THE PROSPECT OF COMMUNIST ENTRY INTO POWER IN WESTERN EUROPE. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE AS TO WHAT SORT OF A PUBLIC STANCE WE SHOULD TAKE ON THIS ISSUE.

-- (IF THE MEETING WITH KANAPA IS RAISED) THE MEETING BETWEEN WORKING LEVEL EMBASSY OFFICERS AND PCF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN KANAPA REPRESENTED A CHANGE NOT IN OUR PRACTICE FOR HANDLING SUCH CONTACTS, BUT THEIRS. WE HAVE LONG BEEN WILLING TO HAVE CONTACTS AT THIS LEVEL WITH THE PCF, AS WE DO WITH THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS, BUT THE PCF HAS HITHERTO BEEN UNINTERESTED. THEIR PURPOSE IN SEEKING THIS

MEETING IS, I THINK, EVIDENT IN THE DISTORTED RENDITIONS
OF ITS CONTENT WHICH THEY HAVE SINCE SURFACED.
CHRISTOPHER

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